

In Congress, April 14, 1777

IN CONGRESS, APRIL 14TH, 1777.

RESOLVED, THAT it be recommended to the Executive Powers of each of the United States, to enquire into the conduct of all Officers on the recruiting service, within them respectively, to remove all such as belong to the Battalions of their respective quotas, who have neglected their duty, or abused the trust reposed in them, and shall be found within their respective jurisdiction, and to fill up all vacancies which may happen by such removals; to transmit to Congress all such testimony as shall be taken against any Officer or Officers who may have marched or removed from the State to whose Battalions he or they belong, and against any Officer or Officers belonging to the quota of another State, who may have been guilty of neglect or misbehaviour in the State where the enquiry shall be made.

That it be recommended to the said Executive Powers to procure exact returns of the Continental Troops in each, and transmit the same to Congress without delay. And all Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Army are hereby required to pay the strictest regard to the Orders of the Executive Powers of the several States, touching the aforesaid promises.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Legislatures of each of the United States to enact Laws exempting from actual service any two of the Militia, who shall, within the time limited by such Laws, furnish one able-bodied Recruit, to serve in any Battalion of the Continental Army, for the term of three years, or during the present War.---Such exemption to continue during the term for which the Recruit shall enlist, and every such Recruit to be entitled to the Continental Bounty and other allowances.

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That it be recommended to the Legislatures aforesaid respectively, to enact Laws compelling all such persons as are by Laws exempted from bearing arms or performing militia duties, other than such as are specified in the foregoing resolve, to furnish such a number of able-bodied Soldiers as the said Legislatures respectively shall deem a proper equivalent for such exemptions, such Soldiers to be entitled to the Continental Bounty and other allowances, over and above such gratuities as they may receive from those who procure them to enlist.

Also to permit the inlisting of servants and apprentices, and to prohibit the imprisoning or otherwise restraining the persons of Soldiers in the Continental service for any debt not exceeding fifty dollars.

And whereas it is of the greatest moment to the cause of American Freedom, that an Army of considerable strength take the Field early the ensuing Campaign;

Resolved, That if the several quotas of the States cannot be furnished by any of the means recommended in the foregoing resolutions, or any other means by the said Legislatures devised, before the fifteenth day of May next, it is recommended to each State to cause indiscriminate draughts to be made from their respective Militia.

That it be recommended to the said Legislatures, to apply all the means by these resolutions recommended in the manner which they shall judge most effectual for speedily compleating the Army, and in case they shall prove unsuccessful, that they cause the draughts aforesaid to be made.

Resolved, That the Executive Power of each State be authorized and impowered to order such Officers as they shall judge proper from the respective Battalions and Companies of their respective quotas, to remain within the State, for the purpose of aiding in inlisting and collecting the Recruits which may be furnished under the above recommended regulations, and to convey the same to the Battalions and Companies to which they shall

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belong, such Officers to be under the direction of such Executive Powers respectively. **By
ORDER of CONGRESS, JOHN HANCOCK, PRESIDENT.**